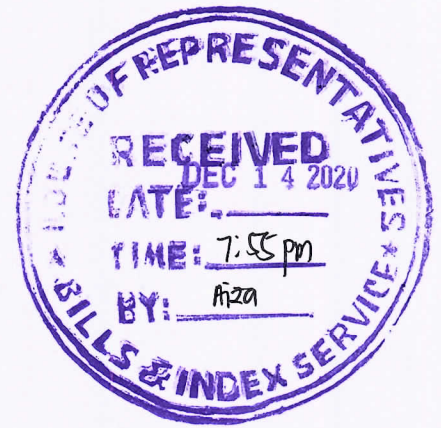


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8247



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSE "PINGPING" TEJADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide access to quality medical education and training to Filipinos through the establishment of a College of Medicine in the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in the Municipality of Kabacan, Province of Cotabato.

The University of Southern Mindanao is an established public research university in the country created by law to operate under the bounds of PD 1312. It provides instructions and professional training in the fields of science and technology which may include Medical Sciences and the technology accorded thereto. It has over 11,000 students, supported by 1600 faculty across its campuses in key areas of North Cotabato. As a state university and a center of higher learning, it is mandated to help accelerate socio-economic development, promote harmony among diverse communities and improve the people's quality of life through instruction, research, extension and resource generation in the Southern Philippines.¹

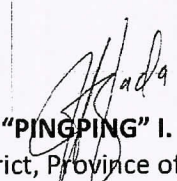
The establishment of a College of Medicine in the University of Southern Mindanao is influenced by the factual Human Resource for Health (HRH) conditions of the country specifically the scarcity of doctors which is a consequence of the lack of access to medical education in most regions of the country. The national-level data for the year 2017 showed that there are 3.9 doctors working in health institutions for a population of 10,000. The Highest density is in the National Capital Region with 10.6 while the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, now BARMM registered the lowest density with 0.9. While Region XII or the SOCCSKSARGEN Region has 2.3 doctors per 10,000 population.² These data include the government and private doctor practitioners in Region 12, but when the ratio is computed solely against the existing government doctors, the gap would significantly increase by nearly 40,000 potential clients as against one doctor. This glaring disparity of doctor to population ratio was substantially highlighted when the COVID-19 pandemic overwhelmed our country's health system.

¹ <https://www.usm.edu.ph/about-usm/>

² Dayrit, Lagrada, Picazo, Pons and Villaverde. "The Philippines Health System Review" Vol. 8 No. 2 2018

In order to contribute in meeting the target number of doctors that the country desperately needs especially during times of great crisis and emergencies and to ensure the unhampered, efficient and effective delivery of Health Services, which is a basic human right guaranteed by the 1987 Philippine Constitution; it is imperative to establish a College of Medicine in the University of Southern Mindanao, Kabacan, Province of Cotabato.

In view of the forgoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA
3rd District, Province of Cotabato

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8247

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSE "PINGPING" I. TEJADA

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOOL IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KABACAN, PROVINCE OF COTABATO TO BE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO – COLLEGE OF MEDICINE" AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
2 *assembled:*

3 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "University of Southern
4 Mindanao (USM) College of Medicine Act".
5

6 **Section 2. Establishment.** – There is hereby established a medical school in the
7 University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in the Municipality of Kabacan, Province of Cotabato
8 to be known as the University of Southern Mindanao – College of Medicine, hereinafter
9 referred to as the College
10

11 **Section 3. General Mandate.** – The College shall primarily offer a Doctor of Medicine
12 Program which shall be at least a four (4)-year baccalaureate program consisting of basic
13 science and clinical course. Its primary goal shall be the development of professional
14 physicians for the Philippine healthcare system.
15

16 **Section 4. Implementation.** – The Governing Board, as provided under Section 5 of
17 Presidential Decree No. 1312, is hereby mandated to be the lead agency in the
18 implementation of this Act.
19

20 **Section 5. Compliance with CHED Requirements.** – The provisions of this Act
21 notwithstanding, the establishment of the College shall become effective only upon the
22 determination and declaration by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), based on the
23 recommendation of a panel of experts it shall constitute for the purpose, that the institution
24 has complied with the policies, standards and guidelines on CHED Memorandum Order No.
25 18, series of 2016 for the Doctor of Medicine Program. *Provided, that the panel may issue*

such recommendation when the institution has substantially complied with the requirements for the program.

Section 6. Tax Exemption. – The importation of scientific and technical books or publications, which are for scientific and technical purposes of the College, upon certification by the CHED, shall be exempt from customs duties in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)”.

All grants, bequests, endowments, donations, and contributions made to the College shall be used actually, directly and exclusively by the College shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be allowed deductions from the gross income of the donor for purposes of computing the taxable income of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 as amended.

Section 7. Annual Report. – On or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the second month after the opening of the regular classes each year, the Governing Board shall file with the Office of the President of the Philippines, through the Chairperson of the CHED, and with both Houses of Congress, a detailed report on the progress, condition and needs of the College.

Section 8. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 9. Supplementary Application. – The provisions of Republic Act 8292, otherwise known as the “Higher Education Act of 1997”, shall be an integral part of this Act and shall serve as part of the Governing Charter of the College.

Section 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Governing Board, in consultation with the CHED, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days after approval of this Act.

Section 11. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, resolutions, instructions, and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby deemed repealed or modified.

Section 12. Separability Clause. – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

Section 13. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved: